

Notes and Quotes – Matt. 6 – When You Pray

Matt 6.1-18

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² "So **when you give** to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁵ "And **when you pray**, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ **your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

¹¹ **Give us today our daily bread.**

¹² **Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

¹³ **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."**

¹⁴ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

¹⁶ "**When you fast**, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Mark 12.38-40 - Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."

Eccl. 5.1-2 – Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near **to listen** rather than to offer the **sacrifice of fools**, who do not know that they do wrong. ² Do **not be quick with your mouth**, do not be **hasty** in your heart **to utter** anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so **let your words be few**.

It is not *what* we do that makes a thing sacred; it is *why* we do it - A. W. Tozer

Pray what is in you; not what ought to be in you – C.S. Lewis

Practical Application

When praying with others / for others - Pause to consider

- **Who / What is around you**

- What kind of needs / beauty / horror / pain / sorrow
- Then speak Wisely of those things

- **What does God want** when you are with such a person / group?

- Openness, Safe place, Sharing deeply, No Masks, Healing,
- Real worship / soul care / more love, etc.
- Then pray for more of those things

- **Consider Scriptural Prayers**

- E.g. - The Lord's Prayer – teaches us to pray for more of God's kingdom to come
- For more forgiveness to happen
- For needs being met
- For us to have strength to not fall prey to sin
- Then pray for these things

Other **suggestions?**